

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information for reducing image quality of image information and conducting a digital copy by means of a digital information compression technology, comprising:

a reverse section for reversing a specific code by means of a code stream of said image information, and outputting it after reducing image quality of said image information by means of reverse of one code or a plurality of codes, wherein said reverse section specifies a reverse position by means of coordinates within each unit block of image information.

2. (Original) An apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 1, wherein said reverse section reverses a code on a coefficient table of discrete cosine transform.

3. (Original) An apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 1, wherein said reverse section reverses a code within a range in which a code stream can be combined by means of a digital information compression technology without changing data length of said code stream.

4. (Original) An apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 1, wherein said reverse section changes a deterioration degree of image quality by specifying a reverse position of a code.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) An apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 1, wherein said reverse section conducts image quality reduction of image information by dividing it into two steps or more than or equal to three steps.

7. (Original) An apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 1, wherein said reverse section conducts image quality reduction for at least one of a Y component, a Cr component and a Cb component of image information.

8. (Original) An apparatus for controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 1, wherein said reverse section has a random number generator for generating a random number for designating existence of code reverse.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling image quality reduction of image information for reducing image quality of image information and conducting a digital copy by means of a digital information compression technology, comprising steps of:

reversing a specific code by means of a code stream of said image information, and outputting it after reducing image quality of said image information by means of reverse of one code or a plurality of codes, wherein said reverse step includes a step of specifying a reverse position by means of coordinates within each unit block of image information.

10. (Original) A method of controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 9, wherein said reverse step includes a step of reversing a code on a coefficient table of discrete cosine transform.
11. (Original) A method of controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 9, wherein said reverse step includes a step of reversing a code within a range in which a code stream can be combined by means of a digital information's compression technology without changing data length of said code stream.
12. (Original) A method of controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 9, wherein said reverse step includes a step of changing a deterioration degree of image quality by specifying a reverse position of a code.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Original) A method of controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 9, wherein said reverse step includes a step of conducting image quality reduction of image information by dividing it into two steps or more than or equal to three steps.
15. (Original) A method of controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 9, wherein said reverse step includes a step of conducting image quality reduction for at least one of a Y component, a Cr component and a Cb component of image information.

16. (Original) A method of controlling image quality reduction of image information according to claim 9, wherein said reverse step includes of a step of generating a random number for designating existence of code reverse.